

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 006880

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL  
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)  
SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL  
Gul: Turkey To Take Necessary Steps in case of Threat in N.  
Iraq - Milliyet  
Holbrooke Asks Turkey Not to Send Troops to Iraq - Milliyet  
Reforms of Public Administration - Sabah  
EU Report to be Released Tomorrow - Sabah  
Public Administration Reform Draft is Ready - Hurriyet  
Bush's Rating Drops - Hurriyet  
Gul: If Any Threat Comes, We Will Enter Iraq - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS  
American People Do Not Believe President Bush - Cumhuriyet  
Corruption Report To be Discussed in Parliament Today-  
Cumhuriyet  
Public Administration Reform Gives PM Increased Authority -  
Cumhuriyet  
Belgian PM: Cyprus is not a Pre-Condition for Turkey's EU  
Accession - Yeni Safak  
'Diet Prescription' for the Bloated State - Radikal  
Iraq Discussed at Planning and Budget Meeting - Radikal

BRIEFING

Public Administration Reforms: All papers today cover the details of the Government's draft reform of the public administration laws. The draft will be sent to parliament for approval in coming days. At a press conference yesterday, Deputy PM Mehmet Ali Sahin gave details of the draft. Sahin claimed that the reforms would result in a downsizing of Turkey's 'bloated' bureaucracy and a transfer of authority from Ankara to local administrations. Sahin added that with the reforms will introduce pluralism, transparency, and accountability into public administration. "Cumhuriyet" says that the public administration reforms will increase the authority of the Prime Minister. "Yeni Safak" claims that the reforms will eliminate the cumbersome structure of the Turkish State and open a new era in public administration. "Turkiye" reports that under the proposed reforms, the bloated state mechanism will be replaced by a smaller but more effective and powerful state. Implementation of the reforms will result in a savings of about 500 trillion TL.

Parliament To Discuss Corruption Report: A report prepared by the Parliamentary Corruption Investigative Committee will be discussed in parliament today. The report is expected to lead to investigations and possible trials of 25 former ministers including former prime ministers Bulent Ecevit and Mesut Yilmaz.

EU Entry: "Milliyet" gives details of the Strategy Document of the EU enlargement report that will be released tomorrow. According to "Milliyet," while the Cyprus issue is covered very briefly in the enlargement report, the strategy document directly links the start of accession negotiations with the Cyprus issue. "Vatan" writes that the report praises the Turkish Government for passage of reforms and shows the military and the bureaucracy as the major obstacles for implementation. "Vatan" adds that the report contains some warnings to Turkey on the Cyprus issue and highlights that not finding a solution to the Cyprus issue could affect Turkey's EU entry.

Holbrooke Comments: "Milliyet" reports comments by former US Deputy Secretary of State and Cyprus Special Envoy Richard Holbrooke at a conference sponsored by the Washington Institute. Holbrooke said that it had been 'an unbelievable mistake' by the US administration to ask Turkey for troops without first consulting the Iraqis. At this point, due to Iraqi sensitivities and objections, it would be best for Turkish troops not to be sent to Iraq. The US Administration should accept the October 7 decision as a goodwill gesture to improve Turkish-American relations and postpone the troop deployment. Alternatively, Holbrooke said, the Turkish troops could play a role in Afghanistan. Holbrooke remarked Denktas' 'stubbornness' on the Cyprus issue. He said that Denktas' position would have a negative effect not only on the 200,000 Turkish Cypriots, but also on the interests of 70 million Turks in Turkey.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION

"Cyprus is next"  
Mehmet Ali Kislali wrote in the mass appeal Milliyet (11/4): "Marc Grossman has served twice in Turkey. . I remember telling him, using examples, how the US was making erroneous evaluations of a multi-faceted issue like Cyprus. Grossman first misguided Clinton by telling him that he could solve the Cyprus issue easily before his term in office expired. Clinton was eventually embarrassed after he got himself into a problem that could not be resolved by the Grossman formula. Now he is attempting to do the same thing with the same staff under the Bush administration. He has not been able to evaluate the reality of the situation in Turkey. They have sent the former secretary of state of the unsuccessful team, Madeleine Albright, to Istanbul in an attempt to use her in their Cyprus campaign through manipulated questions on television. The US and the EU are striving to ensure that the Turkish Cypriot opposition emerges victorious from the general elections. We will see what those who have been unsuccessful in the first two covert operations will do this time."

"AKP is missing the Bartholomeos opportunity"  
Mehmet Ali Birand observed in the mass appeal "Posta" (11/4): "The official state ideology in Turkey has long regarded the Patriarchate as an empire of evil. . However, Archbishop Bartholomeos has now become an advantage for Turkey. The Patriarch in Athens as well as the Orthodox churches in the US and Russia, in an effort to consolidate power, are trying to take away Bartholomeous' ecumenical authority. The only way out for Bartholomeous in this power struggle is through the reopening of Halki Seminary. . We have so far repudiated Ecumenism and kept the seminary closed. We are reading the Lausanne Treaty incorrectly, asking for some progress regarding the ethnic Turks in Western Thrace in exchange for reopening the seminary. . Meanwhile the Patriarch, a Turkish citizen, is providing support for Turkey at the international level. His support for Turkey will grow even more if Ankara backs his request. Ankara should loosen its grip on the Patriarch's Ecumenical title, and open the theology school. . If the AK Party is realistic, it can pull Bartholomeos to our side, making him a spokesman for Turkey and strengthen his hand against the Vatican and his Orthodox rivals. . Are we really afraid that our 2,000 Greek-origin citizens will convert an overwhelmingly Muslim country to Orthodoxy?"

EDELMAN